

April 5, 1992

Harold Weisberg

7627 Old Receiver Rd.

Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I am sorry to hear about your poor health. You have played an incredible part in our recent history, and your skills in investigation and your loyalty to truth are still important to my generation.

Your letter was more than I expected; thank you for taking time to help me out. Most of those who are in a position to help are retired and, thus, difficult to find, so I especially appreciated your prompt and detailed response.

You are right to question my ability to adequately pursue this research topic. First, I am seventeen years old. However, I am an Eagle Scout, and have learned the values of discipline, patience, and listening to those with more experience. Pursuant to your advice, I plan to read dozens of books from many angles before I begin anything, and I'll try to take everything "with a grain of salt." You are right when you say that research materials are limited, too, due to the fact that many appropriate books are out of print. However, the University of California, Riverside, library does carry many out-of-print resources, as well as having the distinction of being an official

government book depository, and it will be my major reference location. The University library has both Sylvia Meagher's *Accessories after the Fact* and Howard Roffman's *Presumed Guilty*, both of the books that you endorsed in your letter and were concerned that I wouldn't be able to review. More difficult is the problem of reviewing copies of the Warren Report and the accompanying 26 volumes of the Hearings and Testimony. I was told that it would cost up to \$3,000 for copies of my own and even then there would be no assurances, so consequently I will be living at the University library for a while and peruse the copies there -- a challenge, but not a roadblock.

I'd like to clarify my position in regards to the Stone movie. The purpose of my project is not to defend him in any way -- rather, I want to present evidence contrary to his and Garisson's theories by juxtaposing clips with alternative and conflicting information. I'm sad that we have become a "television generation," believing things only when flashing lights jump out at us from a box plugged into the wall. It is not my plan to add to the deception of a generation so easily misled. The goal is to let people realize that there are two (and often more) sides to any argument and that there is no substitute for hard and honest research.

Thank you so much for extending the invitation to view your records under the FOIA. I am honored that you would allow me to do so. I am reviewing options for purchasing the books you have published and discussing summer plans with my family to see if traveling to Maryland is a possibility. I'm excited as well about your drawer of information

regarding Stone and his movie, and interested in what you can tell me about investigative reporting and organizing information. In recent dealings with our local newspaper, I am finding that the field of investigative reporting is disappearing; most newspapers seem to see the function of the "reporter" as just that -- to report what has been said or done, not to analyze.

To bring you up to date on my project and research thus far, I'm reading more books, the next of which will be Sylvia Meagher's. I've also found the address of Prof. Robert Blakey, who chaired the House Select Committee on Assassinations in 1978. As I'm sure you remember, he was a critic of the Warren Report. I plan to write to him, and to this area's members of Congress and the Senate to see about obtaining my own copies of the Warren Report and the 26 volumes; the 1978 Report and Testimony of the House Select Committee on Assassinations; and the five volumes of the FBI Summary Report on the Assassination released in 1966.

Thank you again for your help and time. I hope that I can enjoy a continuing correspondence with you, a true expert. If you have any concerns or advice for me, I hope that you will feel free to write me. Your comments would be well-received, and certainly well-used. My best wishes for improving health.

Sincerely,

Brian Bates
24239 Linnea Ct.

Moreno Valley, CA 92553

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Bates". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Brian Bates

Brian Bates
24239 Linnea Ct.,
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

4/10/92

Dear Brian,

You are lucky that you'll have access to the Meagher and Roffman books.

Both are excellent!

Please do not feel obligated for the time I took because aside from my belief this is something older people should do I remember very well how much I learned from older men when I was you age and not much older.

And since then, too.

Does the library you are using know that most of the Commission's records are available on microfilm? I have a friend who has 42 reels of them.

The Warren Report has been reprinted from the official copy and is available as a hardback from Walden stores at about \$13.00.

With a better understanding of your interest in the Stone movie, I tell you that I have a file on it about 20" deep if you are able to get east to go over it.

Most of it is critical.

Do not be misled into believing that Blakey was a sincere critic of the Warren report. He arranged his hearings to debunk all criticism of it (except mine—he never mentioned my name in any of the narratives with which he began those hearings) and then did all he could to validate it. His mafia angle is an unproven preception and the police tapes was to have been the biggest putdown of all. When it backfired he realized that saved him from complete bankruptcy.

That five-volume FBI report begins with the FBI's solution, in quotes, has a volume on Ruby, and the others are appendices. The one for which you might find most use is the first. If you decide to buy it, if the Assassination Archive and Research Center, 909 9th St., NW, #510, Washington 20004 has it it will cost you about a third of what the Archives charges for it. It will cost about 10¢ a page or about \$10 from the FBI but that may take quite a bit of time.

I hope that you will read all my books before you start asking me many questions because I may have answered them in the books and at my age I do not want to waste any time. I do not remember whether I sent you information then so I enclose it.

Good luck with your work and your future!

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg